Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 33906 161134Z ACTION EA-09

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UNCLAS BANGKOK 33906

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BEXP, TH

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER CHAIRS DAY LONG MEETING AT BOARD OF INVESTMENT

1. PRIME MINISTER THANIN KRAIVICHIEN, WHO ASSUMED THE CHAIR-MANSHIP OF THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT RECENTLY, SPENT THE FULL DAY TODAY, DECEMBER 16, AT BOI CONDUCTING A MEETING WITH SEVEN CABINET MINISTERS AND BOI OFFICIALS TO WORK OUT FUTURE RTG POLICY TOWARD PROMOTING NEW INVESTMENTS AND EXPEDITING THE APPROVAL OF PENDING MAJOR PROJECTS. EMBOFF, WHO VISITED BOI WHILE THE MEETING WAS IN PROGRESS, WAS TOLD THAT THE MORNING AND LUNCH SESSIONS WENT VERY WELL. THERE WAS PROGRESS MADE TOWARD RESOLVING MANY OF THE REMAINING OBSTACLES DELAYING THE APPROVAL OF A NUMBER OF MAJOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT PROJECTS INCLUDING SEVERAL OF THE PULP PROJECTS, THE LUBE BASE OIL PROJECT AND OTHERS.

2. MORE DETAILS OF THIS MEETING SHOULD BE IN THE PRESS IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO AND WE WILL SUBMIT A FULLER REPORT THEN. COMMENTS: WHATEVER THE SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS, THE STAFF AT BOI WAS DECKED OUT IN THEIR MILITARY-TYPE UNIFORMS TO GREET THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE ATMOSPHERE WAS HEADY. APPARENTLY THIS IS AN HISTORIC OCCASTION -- THE FIRST TIME THE PRIME MINISTER HAS VISITED BOI IN LIVING MEMORY. WHITEHOUSE

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